

Troy first served his country as a Marine, where he excelled in the high standards of the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Troy's southern upbringing and faithful Marine Corps service made him a gentleman, through and through. Troy always demonstrated the bearing of a leader, and had the character to back it up.

Troy joined my staff in 2001 as a part time worker manning the front desk. In a very short period of time, it became apparent that he had a natural talent for this business and helping constituents.

In his 16 years he did just about all the jobs that make up a district office: receptionist, constituent services representative, constituent services manager, constituent services director, field representative, legislative advisor, and regional director. Troy has been a jack-of-all-trades on my team, acquiring expertise in a wide array of issues, policy, and casework, and he mastered each area quickly.

In particular, Troy's 11 years of service in the Marine Corps equipped him with an unmatched ability to help veterans in need throughout my district. Troy played an integral role in our effort to save "The Dom"—the local VA facility in Southern Oregon—when the VA shortsightedly made an attempt to close that facility. Now renamed as the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics, this facility continues to provide critical services to thousands of veterans each year.

Over the years, thousands of individual constituents received personal guidance and assistance from Troy. He was the guru of constituent services, not only on Team Walden but also in the Oregon delegation. Whether it was casework involving the IRS, veterans and military service members, or Social Security and Medicare, Troy became a recognized expert at identifying the problem and promptly finding a solution. When the delegation constituent services folks got together, Troy was looked to by all as the most knowledgeable person in the room when it came to taking care of constituents and ensuring that the agencies had the opportunity to make things right.

On top of that, when most people struggled to master the skills of proficient writing required of congressional staffers, Troy stood out as a naturally gifted writer. He has that rare ability of organizing complex concepts and putting them on paper so that they can be easily understood by anyone. Troy was a born communicator who could deliver bad news to a constituent with compassion and good news with enthusiasm.

His ability to communicate, breadth of knowledge, and natural leadership made him a key part of welcoming new members to the team. Eager to show new staff the ropes and make them feel at home, Troy became a respected mentor and trainer to those joining Team Walden. New staffers were often advised to "Ask Troy. He'll walk you through how to get the job done and done right."

Outside of the office, Troy is a man of many gifts and talents. He is a gourmet cook—those who worked with Troy over the years have fond memories of the incredible Italian lunches he prepared for his fellow staffers. He co-founded the Jackson County Veterans Advisory Committee, and exhibits selfless service even in his off hours. As a respected member of the local veterans community in southern Oregon, Troy will continue to serve with Jack-

son County Veterans after he leaves my office.

He is a family man in every sense of the word. He is a devoted husband and father, and most recently, a proud grandfather.

Troy will be impossible to replace. Though he will never truly leave Team Walden, I will miss his dedication to serve Oregonians. It comes as no shock to anyone who knows Troy that his next endeavor will involve serving his community—this time with the United Way. I have no doubt Troy will bring his sense of duty to helping others, his fine character, and his leadership to his next career—just as he did for my team for 16 years.

NORTH BRONX SECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special community group that for 50 years has inspired and strengthened the community, the North Bronx Section of the National Council of Negro Women. The North Bronx Section's legacy of outstanding leadership and advocacy for social justice and change has had a transformative effect on countless lives, and I am truly fortunate to represent such a fine organization in Congress.

In early 1967, six women under the leadership of Daisy S. George met to see if it was feasible to form a section of the National Council of Negro Women. This small nucleus grew into a group of more than 50, the amount required to apply for a charter. By May of that year, with a charter drawn up and adopted with by-laws and a constitution, the North Bronx Section became official members of the Council.

By 1968, the Section had initiated a Consumer Education Program throughout the Bronx, and by 1970, operated a voter registration storefront on 225th Street. Throughout the 80's and 90's the Section was involved in all kinds of civic minded activities, from sponsoring day care and tutorial programs, to co-hosting health fairs and educational forums. They even began serving Thanksgiving Dinner in 1994, and still to this day serve over 100 meals every year to seniors, the homeless, and area residents.

All of this has been possible through strong leadership, including 14 amazing Presidents: Virdell Mills; Jayne Harris; Oneater Sinclair; Carmen Snaggs; Eva C. Daniels; Agnes Haywood; Juanita Miner; Olia Barrett; Burmadine Hind; Jessie Williams-Collins; Willie E.P. Bowman; Laura Rhodan; Jessie Davis Walls; and Patricia Kerr. These leaders have been instrumental in making the North Bronx Section the success it has been for 50 years. I want to congratulate them on this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MARGE
PRESTON FOR HER DISTIN-
GUISHED CAREER IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Marge Preston for her outstanding career in higher education. Ms. Preston has served the State of Michigan and its young people well through her work with Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University.

Ms. Preston began her career with Central Michigan University, where she spent 27 years serving in a variety of positions, including Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Coordinator of the University's Career Resource Center. In 2003, she joined Eastern Michigan University and has served the EMU community with distinction during her tenure. She began as the university's Executive Secretary to the Vice President for University Relations, and ultimately held several positions, including Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Government and Community Relations. In this capacity, Ms. Preston managed all aspects of the GCR office, including assisting the University's legal counsel with inquiries, serving as a liaison for state and federal officials and coordinating special events and projects on behalf of the EMU Vice President.

Ms. Preston has been a tireless advocate on behalf of EMU and the Ypsilanti community at large through her service to the university. As a result of her efforts, EMU has been an effective policy advocate whose work with the state and federal government has benefitted both students and educators. Ms. Preston also received recognition throughout her career, including receiving the Central Michigan University Staff Excellence Award. She was also a co-chair for EMU's United Way Campus Wide Drive, helping raise over \$100,000, and served on the EMU Planning Committee for Michigan Women's American Council on Education's annual meeting. She has had a tremendous impact on the direction of higher education in Michigan, and her hard work and expertise will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Marge Preston for her distinguished career in higher education. Ms. Preston has effectively served the State of Michigan and its students through her work with the state's public universities.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNUAL TASTE OF ETHIOPIA

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 5th Annual Taste of Ethiopia. The Taste of Ethiopia promotes cultural immersion and provides community services for our extensive Ethiopian immigrant community in Colorado. The event is a unique showcase of Ethiopian music, food, art, crafts, culture, games, and dance.